



## EAST LOTHIAN LOCAL ACCESS FORUM MINUTES

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26<sup>th</sup> July 2023 | 2pm | John Muir House Haddington

Chair	Jonathan Swift	<i>Association of East Lothian Community Councils</i> outgoing chair	(JS)
Minutes	Jen Newcombe	<i>ELC Countryside Ranger</i>	(JN)
Attendees	Jenny Hargreaves	<i>ELC Team Manager- Countryside</i>	(JH)
	Peter Hildrew	<i>Scotways</i>	(PH)
	Mark James	<i>CyclingUK</i>	(MJ)
	Beth Leslie	<i>Ramblers Scotland</i>	(BL)
	Nick Morgan	<i>ELC Access Officer</i>	(NM)
	Constance Newbold	<i>British Horse Society</i>	(CN)
	James Wyllie	<i>National Farmers Union Scotland</i>	(JW)
Apologies	Martin Andrews	<i>Wemyss and March</i>	
	Hanna Lundstrom	<i>ELC Sustainability and Climate Change Officer</i>	
	Shona McIntosh	<i>ELC Councillor</i>	
	Chris Milne	<i>ELC Sustainable Travel Officer</i>	
	Thomas Stanley	<i>Landowners</i>	
	Parvine Woodger	<i>ELC Ageing Well Co-ordinator</i>	

### 1. ELECTION OF CHAIR AND VICE-CHAIR

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JS stood down as Chair of LAF after 2 terms. The LAF thanked JS for all his efforts and time.

NM informed the Forum that TS had put his name forward for Chair. This was proposed by JW and seconded by CN.

JW proposed CN as Vice-chair and seconded by JS, CN then stepped in to Chair this meeting in TS absence.

### 2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

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MJ noted that 3.3 should read as the Dunbar and West Barns area, not just the Hahill area as stated in previous minutes.

### 3. MATTERS ARISING

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3.1 NM has passed the Fox Lake access issue to ELC Legal Team and the Head of Legal has acknowledged receipt of issue.

3.2 'Except Cyclists' has been added to the sign at Wester Broomhouse.

3.3 Concerns about the vegetation growth around the gate at Abbeymill end of the River Tyne path were highlighted, however NM had checked before the meeting and it was now clear.

3.4 Winterfield GC path, MJ had highlighted concerns over the type 1. It was agreed that the surface would settle over time.

### 3.5 Haddington-Longniddry Railway Walk- Flexipave

Comments were in the majority against it. Discussions on tarmac and benefits and negatives of such. CN discussed the economic benefit of horse riders in East Lothian and MJ pointed out that HLRW is part of the National Cycle Route. Sustrans' consultation will be circulated by NM when it is live. LAF will be consulted for an opinion, NM will talk to TS about LAF response.

PH mentioned that he prefers not to be walking on tarmac.

**Actions- circulate HLRW Consultation and contact TS about LAF comment.**

**NM**

## 4. ACCESS OFFICER'S UPDATE

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Provided to LAF members in separate document.

## 5. LOCAL ACCESS FORUM FACEBOOK

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NM put up a couple of posts but the Forum should discuss who responds to the comments as it should be a member of the LAF rather than NM. JN will help NM to follow all the organisations of the LAF and the Forum will aim to appoint another Social Media member to take the Facebook forward.

**Action- Facebook explanation at next in person LAF meeting**

**JN**

## 6. ACCESS ISSUES UPDATE

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Provided to LAF members in separate document.

### Hopes Estate

Confirmation that the gate on the road has been removed by ELC Roads request. It was stated that the Scottish Water car park was free and accessible at all times. The Estate's car park is still available by permit at certain times. The Forum discussed if a Facebook post could be written to clarify the Scottish Water car park parking option. NM will write a post for Facebook and then circulate to the forum for approval.

**Action- NM to write Facebook post regarding Hopes to circulate to Forum.**

**NM**

## 7. MEMBERS UPDATES

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CN- John Muir Country Park, board walk query from BHS. JN updated the Forum that Nature Scot are asking for a full boardwalk across the saltmarsh. CN informed the Forum that horses would not use a full boardwalk and that they would be supportive of another option.

SH- Scotways signposts in East Lothian audit nearly completed. Added to the Scotways database.

JW- Forth to Farne Way, building website for online maps and selling the Guide book.

NFU- Giant hogweed update to NFUS, increasing landowner's awareness. Members encouraged to check out [ELCV](#) website.

MJ- Regarding Cycling UK website encouraged the forum to have a look at the [Cycleshare](#) fund. Also handed out a new Explore East Lothian leaflet, encouraging rail travel in East Lothian. MJ asked for comments.

## 8. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

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Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2023. Via Teams.